DC

CARTOON NETWORK

#43 FEB '01

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SCOOBY-DOO!

NUTCRACKER NIGHTMARE!

NUTCRACKER NOT-SO-SWEET

DECEMBER IN NEW YORK CITY.

RADIOWORLD MUSIC HALL

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

LIKE, THAT SNOWBALL FIGHT WAS SO MUCH FUN I LOST TRACK OF TIME!

GOOD THING I *WON!*

RO, RYE DID!

MA'AM, WE'RE THE DETECTIVES FROM MYSTERY INC. I'M DAPHNE AND THIS IS FRED, VELMA, ER...

...SHAGGY, AND SCOOBY.

WHY DO I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO END UP WITH US IN TIGHTS?

RUH-ROH!

I AM *AGNES DeMILLIONS*. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME *SAVE* THE *GEOFFREY BALLET COMPANY!*

OUR PRODUCTION OF "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" IS BEING HAUNTED BY A *REAL GHOST!*

PLAYGRAM

Joe Edkin... librettist
Joe Staton... choreographer
Dave Hunt... conductor
Paul Becton... scenic design
Ryan Cline... program notes
Harvey Richards... asst director
Joan Hilty... producer

WHAT ARE THESE WRETCHED *CHILDREN* DOING HERE?

WE'RE HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE STORY ABOUT THE GHOST.

STORY?! EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF *RUDOLFO KASPENOV* IS THE *TRUTH!*

LIKE, *WHO'S* RUDOLFO KASPENOV?

TELL US WHAT HAPPENED, MR. KASPENOV.

ONLY BALLET'S *GREATEST* DANCER! AND IT WAS *I*, RUDOLFO, WHO WAS THREATENED BY THE GHOST!

"IT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER MS. DeMILLIONS MADE HER ANNOUNCEMENT."

THIS YEAR, WE'LL BE DANCING A *CHRISTMAS CAROL* INSTEAD OF THE NUTCRACKER SUITE... AND ELLIOT FIELD WILL STAR AS SCROOGE!

RIDICULOUS! THE NUTCRACKER SUITE IS A *CLASSIC* AND RUDOLFO KASPENOV IS ITS STAR!

"AS RUDOLFO LEFT THE THEATER, HE SAW THE NUTCRACKER GHOST."

IF A CHRISTMAS CAROL IS PERFORMED HERE, YOU ALL WILL SUFFER!

RUDOLFO CALLED FOR THE OTHERS, BUT BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVED, THE GHOST HAD *DISAPPEARED!*

I WONDER IF HE ALWAYS TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON.

RUDOLFO HAS REFUSED TO DANCE UNTIL MS. DeMILLIONS CANCELS THIS *CURSED PRODUCTION!*

LIKE, THEN WHY IS RUDOLFO KASP...

--ER--

...WHY ARE YOU HERE?

OBVIOUSLY RUDOLFO IS WAITING FOR MS. DEMILLIONS TO COME TO HER SENSES!

HE'S JUST UPSET THAT I DIDN'T CAST HIM IN THE LEAD.

WELCOME, KIDS! I'M *BOB F. GOWER*, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR!

YOURPRESENCE HEREISGONNAGET USGREATPRESS! LETMEGETYOUR PICTURES...

BOB--

--I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT WE'RE *NOT* TELLING REPORTERS ABOUT THE GHOST.

WE DON'T DARE CHANCE SCARING PEOPLE AWAY.

IF THIS SHOW ISN'T A SUCCESS, WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE THE THEATER ONCE AND FOR *ALL!*

BUT--!

...BUTTHISKIND OFPUBLICITY COULD*SAVE*THE GEOFFREY BALLET!

YOU KIDS CAN START YOUR INVESTIGATION BY WATCHING THE REHEARSAL FROM THE WINGS.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A BALLET DANCER. AREN'T ELLIOT AND NATALIE *BEAUTIFUL?*

REVERY RAY!

GIVE ME CORDUROY SLACKS AND A GREEN T-SHIRT ANY DAY!

DID YOU SEE WHERE AGNES WENT?

I THOUGHT SHE WAS RIGHT BEHIND US...

KLIK

HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?!

OOOOFFF!

THUNK

ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?!

GROAN

LET THIS BE YOUR LAST WARNING!

YOU DON'T DARE CHANCE CROSSING THE NUTCRACKER GHOST!

END THIS CURSED PRODUCTION OF CHRISTMAS CAROL OR YOU WILL BE SORRY!
I'M ALREADY SORRY!
RE ROO!
KLIK
THE LIGHTS ARE BACK ON-- AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS THEY WENT OUT!
ARE YOU BOTH ALL RIGHT?
I... THINK SO...
I HURT MY ANKLE!
LIKE-- OL' TALL AND TOOTHSOME'S GONE! BUT WHERE?
I THINK I KNOW.
TAP TAP TAP
ZOINKS! A TRAP DOOR!
WHUNK
I'LL BET THE GHOST DISAPPEARED UNDER THE STAGE!
THAT'S A GOOD PLACE FOR A GHOST. LET'S LEAVE HIM DOWN THERE!

WELL, IF THE GHOST DID COME DOWN HERE, HE'S GONE NOW.

WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE! I'LL HAIL A CAB!

I'LL BET HE'S IN THERE!

LET'S FIND OUT!

LIKE, DO WE HAVE TO?

AAAAAAHHH!!!

WHO ARE YOU?

WE'RE MYSTERY INC.

I'M *BENJI MONSTRESSOR.* I MAKE ALL THE PROPS FOR THE BALLET.

YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING, SCOOB?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A *GHOST*.

IF YOU GIVE ME A WEEK, I CAN BUILD YOU ONE.

WE DON'T WANT A *NEW* ONE! WE'RE TRYING TO FIND THE ONE THAT'S *HAUNTING* THE *THEATER*.

OH, I JUST FIGURED THAT WAS ONE OF RUDOLFO'S *TALL TALES*.

HE'S AS MAD AS I WAS ABOUT THE CHANGE OF SHOWS.

SPITTTUI!

YOU WERE UPSET?

UPSET? I BUILT ALL THESE PROPS FOR THE *NUTCRACKER SUITE* AND MS. DEMILLIONS DECIDES TO DO *CHRISTMAS CAROL* INSTEAD! DARN RIGHT I'M UPSET!

ICK! STYROFOAM!

RARDROARD! RUCK!

HAVE ANY OF YOUR NUTCRACKER COSTUMES DISAPPEARED RECENTLY?

SOME OF LAST YEAR'S COSTUMES AREN'T HERE. I FIGURED MS. DEMILLIONS PUT THEM IN STORAGE.

AND SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

THAT GHOST SCARED OFF ELLIOT, AND NATALIE'S ANKLE IS SPRAINED!

DON'T WORRY, MS. DeMILLIONS. WE HAVE A *PLAN!*

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, DON'TCHA, SCOOB?

RUH-ROH!

"GIVE THE CAST THE DAY OFF TOMORROW."

"WE'LL HAVE DAPHNE, SHAGGY, AND SCOOBY DRAW THE GHOST OUT OF HIDING..."

WHY DON'T FRED'S PLANS EVER INCLUDE *HIM* WEARING TIGHTS?

RARGH! RITCHY RIGHTS!

YOU ARE DOING VERY *WELL*, MISS DAPHNE.

IT WAS *ALWAYS* MY DREAM TO DANCE.

NOW FOR THE LEAP...

HERE I COME, GUYS...

GUYS--?

I CAN'T LOOK!

CRASH

THUD

WUNK

YOU GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO *CATCH ME!*

W-W-WE'VE GOT *OTHER* P-P-PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW!

REAH!

THE NUTCRACKER GHOST WARNED YOU TO CEASE!

NOW YOU SHALL ALL PAY!

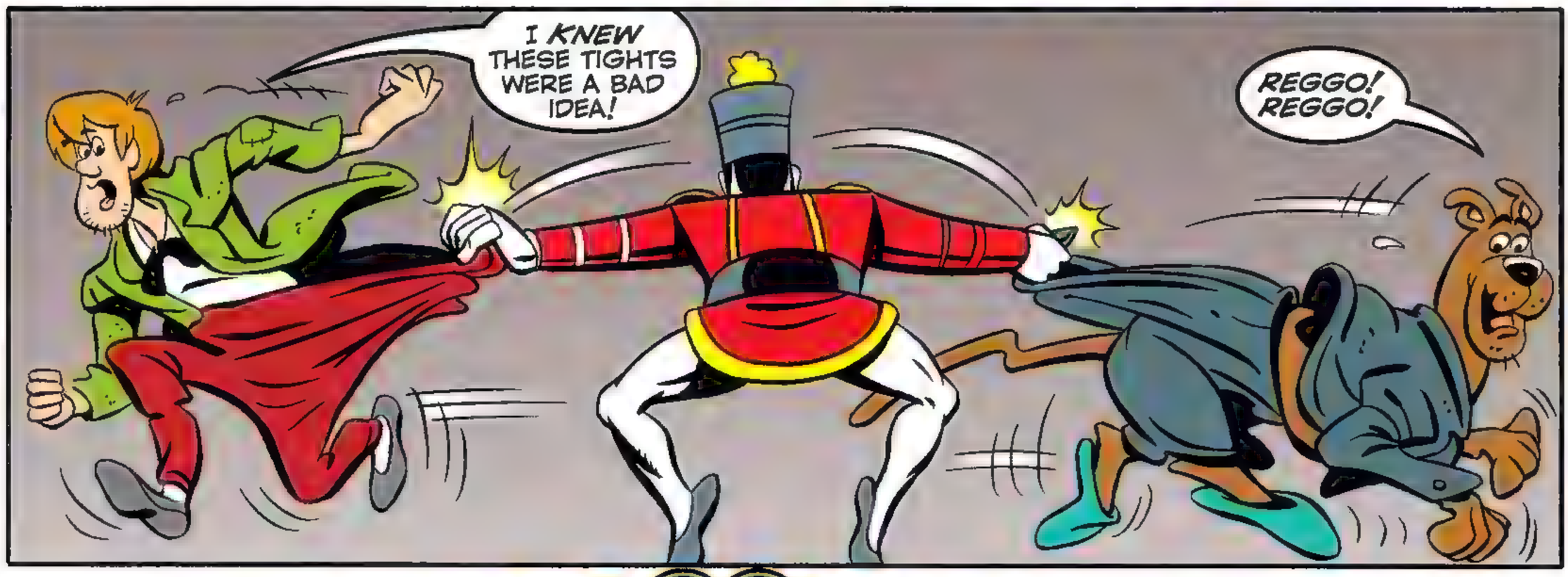
SORRY! I LEFT MY WALLET IN MY *OTHER* TIGHTS!

GOOD JOB, GUYS!

YOU LED HIM RIGHT TO *US!*

THE NUTCRACKER GHOST SHALL NOT BE STOPPED BY WRETCHED CHILDREN SUCH AS YOU!

YIKES! INCOMING!


I KNEW THESE TIGHTS WERE A BAD IDEA!
REGGO! REGGO!

SPROOOINNG
THUD

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DAPHNE?

I'M FINE! COME ON, LET'S TRY AGAIN!

WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE MORE CHANCE! THIS GHOST CAN *MOVE!*

HOLD STILL, GUYS!

LIKE WE HAVE ANY CHOICE?

WE GOT 'EM!

NOW PULL!

WHOOOSH

K-THONK

RUDOLFO KASPENOV WAS THE NUTCRACKER GHOST!

IT HAD TO BE HIM. NO ONE ELSE COULD LEAP THAT HIGH!

YES! RUDOLFO KASPENOV IS A STAR! RUDOLFO WANTED TO DANCE THE *NUTCRACKER SUITE* THIS YEAR LIKE EVERY YEAR!

AND RUDOLFO WOULD HAVE, IF NOT FOR YOU MEDDLING KIDS!

WHERE WERE YOU, MS. DeMILLIONS?

HIDING IN THE ORCHESTRA PIT UNTIL THE GHOST WAS CAUGHT.

I WISH *WE'D* THOUGHT OF THAT!

THISSTORY ISGONNA GETUSON "ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT!" THE BALLET'S SAVED!

MAKE SURE YOU GET RUDOLFO'S *GOOD SIDE.*

THE BALLET'S STILL IN TROUBLE. NATALIE CAN'T DANCE ON HER HURT ANKLE!

DON'T WORRY, MS. DeMILLIONS-- I HAVE *ANOTHER* PLAN!

OH NO!

OPENING NIGHT...

THIS IS *MARVELOUS!* THE BALLET'S *SOLD OUT* AND DAPHNE IS A *WONDERFUL* DANCER!

AND SHE LOOKS WAY BETTER IN TIGHTS THAN *I* DO!

RI'LL RAY!

THE END

LIKE, HOLD STILL, SCOOB!

RI'M RYING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHAGGY?

I'M ENTERING AN ART CONTEST, VELMA.

NOBLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WANTS ITS FOOTBALL MASCOTS, THE *GRINDER AND MILLSTONE*, REDESIGNED.

I CAN SEE WHY.

MY MASTERPIECE IS SURE TO WIN *SECOND PLACE!*

DON'T YOU WANT TO WIN *FIRST* PLACE?

NAH- THE GRAND PRIZE IS JUST *FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.*

RIKES!

CRASH

BUT SECOND PLACE GETS *THE MOUNTAIN*, A GIANT ICE CREAM SUNDAE FEATURING ONE SCOOP OF EACH OF THE *FORTY-NINE FLAVORS* OF ICE CREAM FROM THE *NOBLESVILLE SWEET SHOP!*

RICE REAM! RUM RUM!

SIX WEEKS LATER...

IT'S SO EXCITING THAT THEY INVITED YOU TO NOBLESVILLE FOR THE *AWARDS CEREMONY*, SHAGGY! DO YOU THINK YOU WON THE CONTEST?!

I *HOPE NOT*, DAPHNE!

FINE GOODS

WELCOME WINNERS

MASCOT MADNESS

JOE EDKIN - WRITER
ERIK DOESCHER - PENCILLER
MIKE DECARLO - INKER
RYAN CLINE - LETTERS
PAUL BECTON - COLORIST
HARVEY RICHARDS - ASST EDITOR
JOAN HILTY - EDITOR

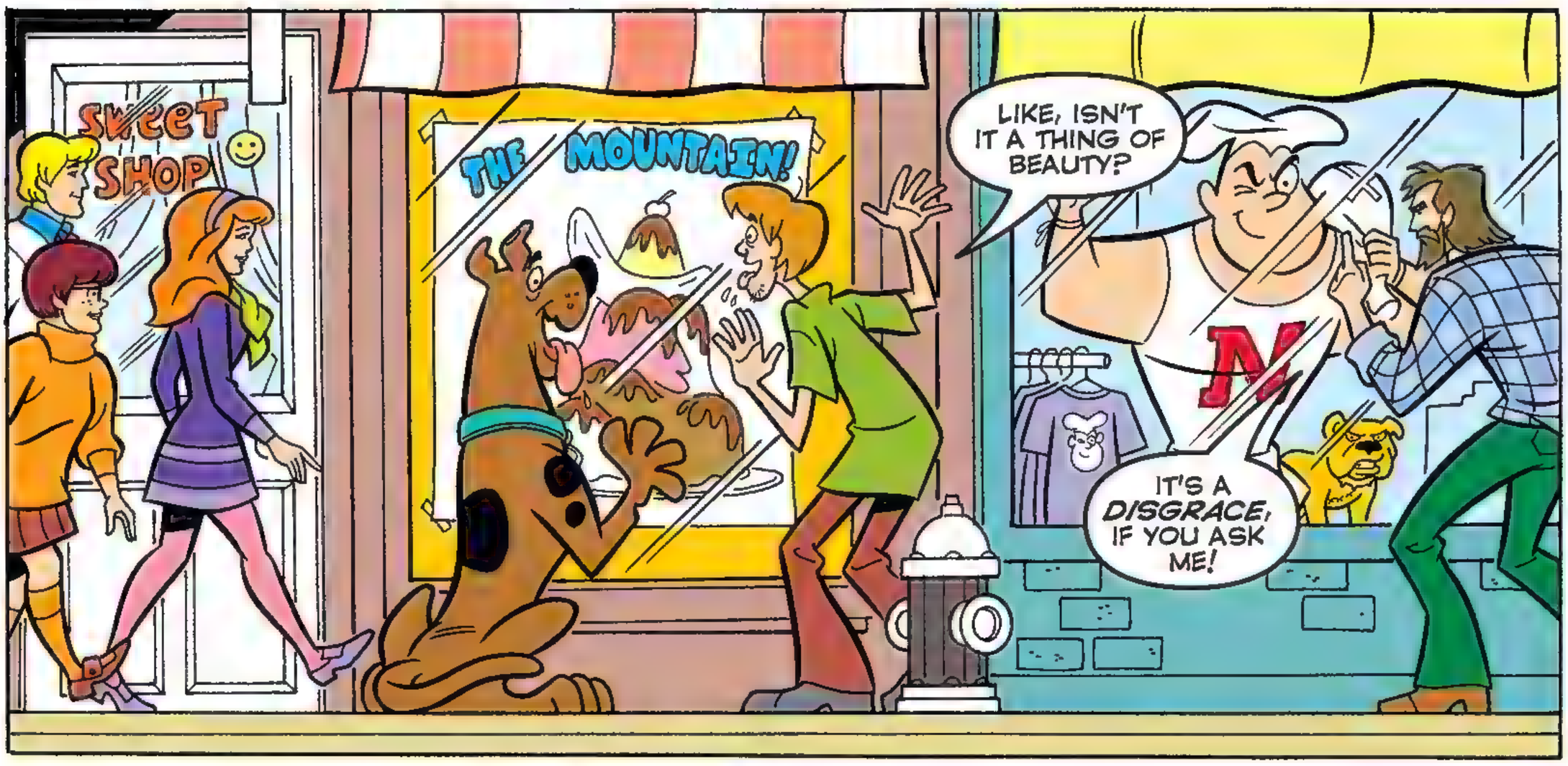
WHY *WOULDN'T* HE WANT TO WIN?

DON'T ASK.

WE'VE GOT A COUPLE OF HOURS BEFORE THE CEREMONY BEGINS.

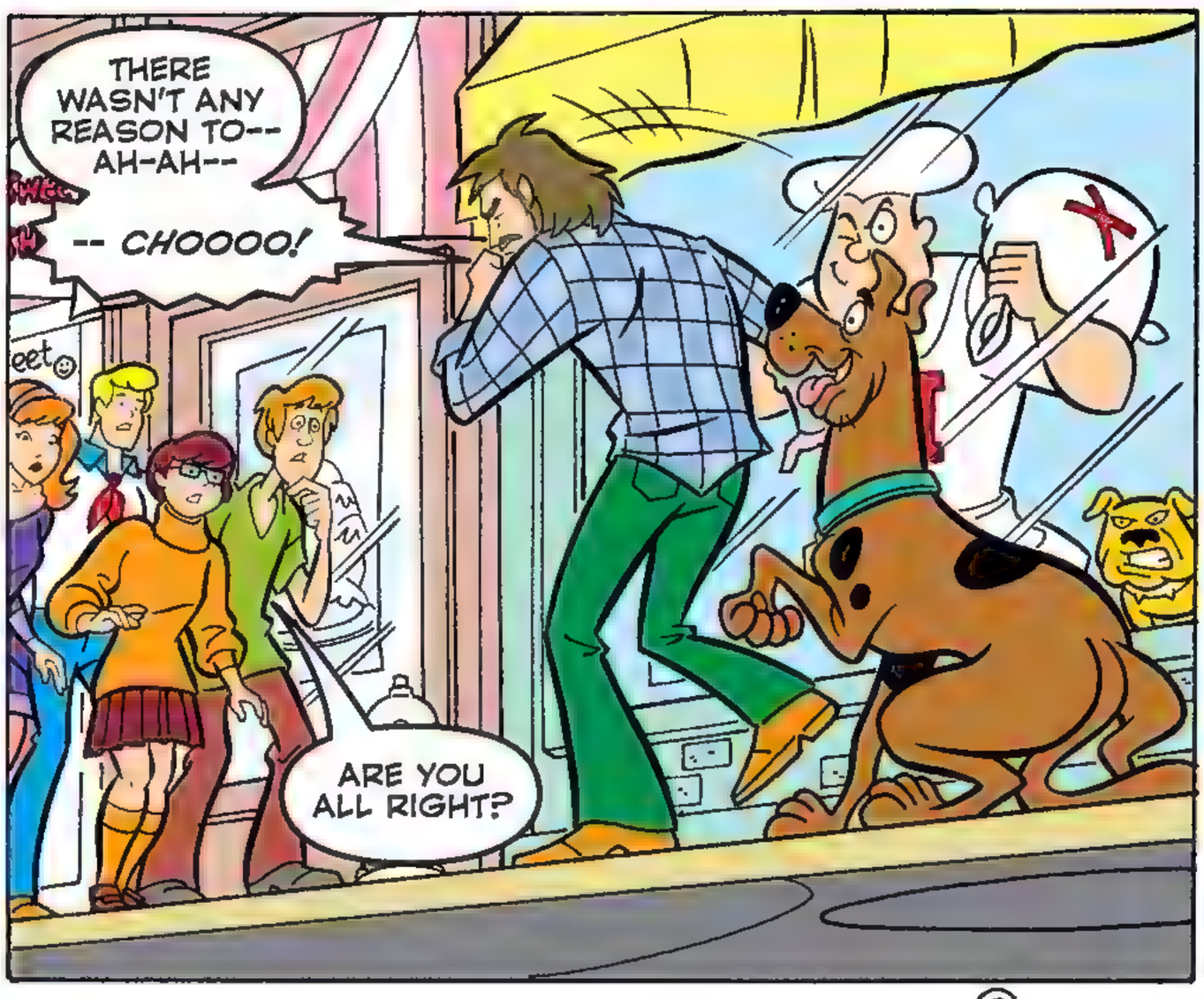
WHY DON'T WE CHECK OUT THE TOWN, *FRED?*

LOOKS LIKE SHAGGY AND SCOOBY STARTED *WITHOUT US.*


SWEET SHOP
THE MOUNTAIN!
LIKE, ISN'T IT A THING OF BEAUTY?
IT'S A *DISGRACE*, IF YOU ASK ME!

HOW COULD ANYONE NOT LIKE *ICE CREAM*?
WHO'S TALKING ABOUT ICE CREAM? I'M TALKING ABOUT *THE GRINDER!*

WE AGREE WITH YOU, SIR. MY FRIEND HERE ENTERED THE CONTEST TO *REDESIGN* THE GRINDER.
SHAME ON YOU! MY GRANDFATHER DESIGNED THE *ORIGINAL* GRINDER FIFTY YEARS AGO AS A TRIBUTE TO THE FAMOUS *FLOUR MILLS* OF NOBLESVILLE!


THERE WASN'T ANY REASON TO-- AH-AH--
-- CHOOOO!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M ⇶SNIFF⇷ *ALLERGIC TO DOGS!*
ROO? RE?

AH--CHOO!

SANDY DANIEL'S NOT THE ONLY ONE UPSET ABOUT THE GRINDER!

RALPH STERN. I OWN THIS STORE.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHY WOULD YOU BE UPSET ABOUT CHANGING THE GRINDER, MR. STERN?

ECONOMICS, SON!

WHAT ARE MERCHANTS LIKE ME GOING TO DO WITH ALL THIS *OLD* GRINDER MERCHANDISE?

I'M GOING TO LOSE *THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!*

BARK

BARK

BARK

BARK

BARK

OH, THAT'S *SONNY*, MY GUARD DOG. I KEEP HIM DOWNSTAIRS WHEN THE STORE'S OPEN.

DO I HEAR A DOG BARKING?

HE SOUNDS *MEAN*. LIKE, I'D HIDE UNDER THIS SHIRT IF IT WEREN'T FULL OF *HOLES*.

SONNY'S JUST LOUD. HE WOULDN'T *HURT* ANYBODY!

BARK BARK BARK

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

I WAS SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT MR. STERN'S PROBLEMS.

YEAH, LIKE, IT WILL MAKE ME FEEL KIND OF *GUILTY* IF I WIN.

NOT ME. I NEED THE MONEY TO PAY OFF *MY STUDENT LOAN* FROM ART SCHOOL!

YOU ENTERED THE CONTEST TOO?

YEAH. I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT IF I *WON!*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

AS MAYOR OF NOBLESVILLE, IT'S A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO NAME THE WINNER OF THE *GRINDER REDESIGN CONTEST!*

STOP THIS TRAVESTY!

IF YOU DARE REPLACE ME--

-- THERE WILL BE DIRE CONSEQUENCES!

IT'S A GHOST!

THE GHOST OF THE GRINDER!

STAY CALM! DON'T PANIC!

FOOSH

YOU HAVE ONE HOUR TO STOP THE CONTEST AND DESTROY THE NEW DESIGNS-- OR I WILL BE BACK!

LET'S GO, GUYS! WE'LL FIND OUT WHO THIS GRINDER *REALLY* IS!

UH... MAYBE WE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS LEAD AND *TAKE A POWDER!*

IF WE DON'T CATCH HIM YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT IF YOU WON THE *ICE CREAM SUNDAE!*

LIKE-- GANGWAY!

RANGRAY!

LOOK! THE GRINDER LEFT A TRAIL RIGHT INTO THE BASEMENT! AND I CAN HEAR *MILLSTONE!*

BARK BARK BARK BARK

WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

DANGER! KEEP OUT!!

BARK BARK BARK

HE'S IN HERE!

YOU MEAN, BEHIND THE DOOR THAT SAYS *"DANGER! KEEP OUT!"*?

BARK BARK BARK

EXACTLY!

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST *BUY* SOME ICE CREAM CONES AND HEAD HOME!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE "DANGER" SIGN SCARE YOU, ARE YOU, SHAGGY?

ISN'T THAT *WHY IT'S THERE?*

I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THE SCOOBY SNACKS WITH *ME.*

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS PLACE *IS,* FRED?

WE'RE SO *WEAK!*

RUT RACK'S RAWR RO ROOD!

I BET THESE PIPES WERE USED TO SUPPLY *STEAM HEAT* TO ALL THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS BEFORE THEY CONVERTED TO *ELECTRIC* OR *GAS* FURNACES.

BARK BARK BARK BARK

SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE STILL ON THE *RIGHT TRACK.*

HEY, GUYS--THE TRAIL'S VANISHED!

WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?

BACK THE WAY WE CAME? THAT WAY WE KNOW WE WON'T HAVE TO FACE OLD FATHEAD!

LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER COME BACK!

YIKES!

GET HIM!

I DON'T *WANT* HIM!

WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED NOW! GRAB HIM BEFORE HE OPENS THE DOOR AND SENDS MILLSTONE AFTER US!

BARK

BARK

BARK

BARK

FOOLS! I WARNED YOU!

FOOM

AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!
RAH-SHROO!
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
HA! NOW I'LL...
EH???
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!
WHUMP
THAT MUST BE SONNY! THIS IS A *BACK ENTRANCE* TO STERN'S!
BARK
LIKE, *RALPH STERN* MUST BE THE GRINDER GHOST!
NOT SO FAST, SHAGGY! WHY WOULD HIS *OWN DOG* BE ATTACKING HIM?
BARK
BARK
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SANDY DANIELS WAS PRETENDING TO BE THE GRINDER TO KEEP NOBLESVILLE FROM CHANGING HIS GRANDFATHER'S DESIGN!
I KNEW IT WAS HIM WHEN HIS *ALLERGY* KICKED IN! THAT'S WHY HE HAD A *STUFFED* MILLSTONE!
AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!

THE DETECTIVES OF *MYSTERY INC.* HAVE SAVED THE DAY! IT IS NOW MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE *WINNERS* OF THE *DESIGN CONTEST!*

AH-MEDDLING KIDS-- *CHOO!*

THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER IS *IKE JOSHUA*, WHO RECEIVES A CHECK FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THE FIRST RUNNER UP, AND WINNER OF THE MOUNTAIN SUNDAE...

...IS *SHAGGY OF MYSTERY INC.*, FOR THIS TRULY *ORIGINAL* INTERPRETATION!

THAT EVENING...

LIKE, CHASING MAD MASCOTS IS A REAL *GRIND*...

...BUT THIS IS A *SWEET* REWARD!

ROOBY-ROOBY ROO!

THE END

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"